

Traction devices keep autos legal

By **MARIAN GREEN**
Of the Emerald

Now that snow is capping the Oregon Cascades, winter enthusiasts should be aware of snow season regulations.

Oregon requires car owners to purchase Sno-park passes to park in any winter recreation area that the state plows, says Julie Blackhurst, of the Department of Motor Vehicles. Those areas are marked with a light blue snowflake sign.

Car owners can buy the passes at every DMV office in the Eugene-Springfield area, except the Franklin Boulevard office, which recently converted to a drive-test center only. Some ski shops will sell the passes also, Blackhurst says.

Annual Sno-park passes, valid until Oct. 31, 1982, cost \$5, and day-only passes cost \$1. Owners of cars without passes parked in Sno-park areas may be fined \$10.

In addition, a new state law, effective Nov. 1, puts strict regulations on when and where chains and/or similar traction devices and tires are recommended or mandated.

The state defines traction device as any device that attaches to the tire wheel or vehicle and that assists the vehicle's traction. Studded tires also fall under the traction device definition. Oregon defines a traction tire as any tire that provides more traction than the conventional tire.

Signs may be posted in zones where traction devices or traction tires are **recommended and must be carried**.

In other posted zones, either traction tires or traction devices **must be used**. Vehicles exempted under this section include police, fire and ambu-

lance vehicles and passenger vehicles that weigh not more than 6,500 pounds, provide four-wheel drive, carry traction devices, use traction tires on all four wheels, do not tow vehicles other than disabled vehicles on the road, do not lose traction when stopping, cornering or moving.

In the Lane County area, this restriction applies to Route 126 between its junction with U.S. Highway 20 and its junction with Oregon Highway 242, and to Route 58 (The Willamette Highway) from east of McCredie Springs to Odell Lake.

A third restriction mandates that traction devices **must be used** in certain posted zones.

Areas that, when signs are posted, fall under the third category include:

- The portion of Highway 173, called Timberline Highway, between Government Camp and Timberline Lodge.

- The portion of Highway 372, called Century Drive, from nine miles west of Bend to the Mt. Bachelor Ski Area.

- The portion of Jackson County Road 1151, called Mt. Ashland Road, between its intersection with the Siskiyou Summit Frontage Road and the Mt. Ashland Ski Area.

- The portion of Baker County Road, called Anthony Lake Highway, 12 miles northwest of Haines and the Anthony Lake Ski Area.

Violators of the new law, a Class D traffic infraction, may be fined a maximum \$50, says Sergeant Ralph Nelson of the Oregon State Police traffic division.

For local driving conditions, call the state police Road and Weather phone line at 686-7900.

Anders Haugen of Yucaipa, Calif., was the first American to win an Olympic medal for a nordic ski event, capturing the bronze in ski jumping when the Winter Olympics made their debut at Chamonix, France, in

1924.

The first Olympic cross-country ski medal won by the United States came in 1976 when Bill Koch of Guilford, Vt. earned the silver medal in the 30-kilometer race.

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